

IRONSIDE

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MAGAZINE (FORWARD)

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U.S. Army vets save bear
Range dedicated to soldier
Sniper Training in Baghdad

(FORWARD)

1st Armored Division Commander
Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

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Capt. (Promotable) David Gercken

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
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1st Lt. Michelle Walsh

Division PAO NCOIC
Master Sgt. David Melancon

Editor
Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Layout/Design
Cpl. Todd Pruden
Spc. Anthony Reinoso

Staff Writers
Staff Sgt. Conrad College
Sgt. Mark Bell
Sgt. Mark Rickert
Sgt. Christopher Stanis
Spc. Ryan Smith
Spc. Chad Wilkerson

On the cover:



Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, struggle to defeat an Iraqi team in a tug-a-war contest during battalion activities on Veteran's Day.

IRONSIDE MAGAZINE
(FORWARD)

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Happy Thanksgiving to all Iron Soldiers

By Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling

Assistant Division
Commander -- Support

Like most families, the Hertlings have all sorts of traditions for every holiday. My wife Sue, our two boys, our trusty dog Shadow and I all have things we like to do on dates marking special events.

And Thanksgiving is one of our most favorite days.

Our Thanksgiving celebration has always been filled with special friends playing touch football in the morning. The "Turkey Bowl" always went off, no matter the weather. That game is followed by lots of talking over a late breakfast with friends and relatives who have come to visit.

Then, we participate with soldiers and our unit family in a traditional dining facility visit (with the second great meal of the day provided by the best of Army cooks!). Football on television is scheduled for the late afternoon, as we regain an appetite waiting for the family dinner.

But before eating the big meal, we each tell one another, in a longer-than-usual family pre-meal prayer, how and why we're thankful. We gain some pounds -



BRIG. GEN. HERTLING

and some memories - each year.

But the Hertlings will have to put most of those normal Thanksgiving traditions on hold. Just like all of you, I will be in Baghdad this year. But I've written my wife a letter telling her that I'm still thankful for lots of things this Thanksgiving.

I'm thankful for each of the 30,000+ soldiers of this 1st Armored Division Task Force. I'm thankful for their tactical competency and their overwhelming compassion, and I'm thankful for the miracles they work every day. I'm thankful for all their leaders, who have come together to form the best team I've seen in 28 years of military service.

I'm thankful for the growth I

see in Baghdad. I'm thankful for all the new Iraqi people I've met. And I'm thankful that the good and decent Iraqi people are now able to achieve dignity without the fear of brutal oppression.

I'm thankful for all the families and loved ones who support us in Europe and everywhere in the U.S. I'm thankful for those who send us packages, letters, emails, thoughts, and - most importantly - prayers. We need to keep letting them know how thankful we are for these gifts of love.

I'm thankful for all the soldiers who have given the last full measure of devotion: those who have died or been wounded in this cause to bring freedom to a people we barely know. I ask each of you to join me in a special prayer for each of our fallen comrades this year before we dine.

And as tough as it is being away from my family for this special holiday, I'm thankful for being with the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad because we're making a difference. We're helping a people that need help, we're fighting for our country's and their country's future, and we're making history.

Happy Thanksgiving to all Iron Soldiers, and may all of your future memories be good ones.

Do you want to improve your GT score?

Many soldiers throughout the 1st Armored Division want to raise their general technical (GT) score. Certain Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) scores are required for reenlistment, Warrant Officer, Officer Candidate School, Green to Gold, Special Forces, and special assignments and programs.

"We are going to be deployed for a year," said Sergeant Maj. Jim Jaranowski, 1AD retention sergeant major. "However, some soldiers are currently in their re-enlistment window, and many others would like to submit applications now for Green to Gold, flight school, the next OCS Board, or Special Forces."

Rather than leave these soldiers without options, 1AD will be providing a way for soldiers to re-take the AFCT, formerly known as the Army Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), while they are deployed.

Representatives from the Installation Management Agency - Europe, Army Continuing Education System (IMA-E ACES) will be on Baghdad International

Airport (BIAP) from Dec. 5-11 to administer the Flight Aptitude Test (AFAT) and the AFCT to soldiers wanting to raise their GT score, or other scores to qualify them for training or assignments.

It is unknown whether the ACES representatives will be able to return in the coming months, so Jaranowski encourages all soldiers to act now.

Soldiers who want to re-take any of these tests need to get with their respective career counselors immediately. Career counselors will provide study guides, or soldiers themselves may purchase them.

Though all preparation is individually paced, the division has also hired 10 U.S.-educated Iraqi instructors that will be available as tutors.

Once a soldier feels prepared to re-take a test, he may request to be administered a pre-test. The pre-test should indicate whether a soldier is ready to re-test or if more studying is needed.

"We're doing everything we can to set a soldier up for success," said Jaranowski.

Warrant officer places soldiers' lives ahead of own

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts
IAD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - "You don't leave soldiers in the battlefield and here the battlefield is all over the place. We did what soldiers are supposed to do," said Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh Jr., a legal administrator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division.

What McIntosh did was help save the lives of two soldiers.

On Aug. 3, McIntosh was part of a three-vehicle convoy on a re-supply mission in central Baghdad. As the convoy drove through a busy business district, looking for a secure place to park, McIntosh noticed two humvees parked on a median. The convoy continued, parked, and as the soldiers were dismounting the vehicles, they heard a loud explosion.

McIntosh knew immediately that the explosion had come from the vicinity of where the two humvees were parked. He ran to the median where he saw that one humvee had been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and was on fire. Two soldiers, one that had been thrown out of the vehicle and one that was still trapped inside, were obviously wounded. The area was also under small-arms fire.

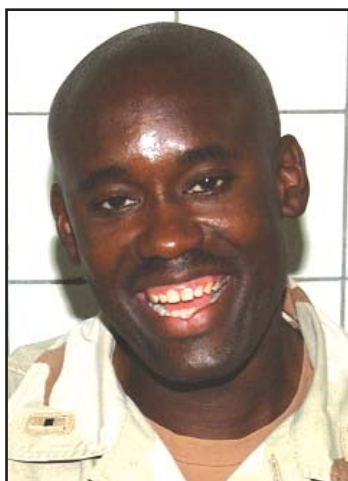
"The fact that we were being fired upon was never my focus," said McIntosh. "All I could think about was saving the soldiers."

McIntosh returned to his own vehicle to attempt to radio for medical evacuation.

When that failed, McIntosh returned to the site of the ambush and assisted in getting the wounded soldiers into a nearby store. McIntosh then provided medical aid while the soldiers waited for medical evacuation.

For his actions, McIntosh was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

McIntosh was born Aug. 29, 1968, in Bronx, N.Y., the only



**WARRANT OFFICER
McINTOSH**

child of Donnell, a retired Chief Warrant Officer, and Diane, an accountant. McIntosh spent most of his childhood moving around Army posts, living in Hawaii, Virginia, and Indiana.

"Moving around while I was growing up was a positive experience," McIntosh said. "I got to experience different cultures and different people."

In 1986 McIntosh graduated from Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis, Ind. He headed to Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas, where he studied electronic engineering, but left after a year to join the military.

"I wanted to come into the service and get the college fund," said McIntosh.

McIntosh enlisted in the U.S. Army March 15, 1989, as a nuclear weapons specialist. He headed to Besel, Germany, and spent three years serving with the 1st U.S. Army Field Artillery Detachment.

In 1992, McIntosh's job was phased out of the military and he was involuntarily re-classed to a legal specialist.

Three days after graduating Advanced Individual Training, McIntosh deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y., to Somalia with the 122nd Infantry Brigade. He spent nearly six months there.

"I was there for the major combat events in Somalia. Since it was my first combat patch I was appreciative of the experience. I learned so much about soldiering. I

learned so much about the negative and positive results of conflict. Also, my time in Somalia showed me the value of life: take the time to appreciate the quality, the simplistic quality, of living. Before Somalia, I didn't respect a lot that life had to offer, because I didn't see it."

After returning from Somalia, McIntosh spent another two years at Fort Drum, earning the Air Assault Badge and deploying for a short time to Haiti with 10th Mountain Division's Support Command. He left in 1995 for White Sands Missile Range, N.M., where he earned his Associate's Degree in criminal justice.

In 1999, McIntosh headed back overseas to work in IAD's legal center in Baumholder, Germany. In May 2000, he left for his third deployment, this time to Kosovo, where he spent seven months.

"Kosovo was a humanitarian mission, but it re-educated me to the importance of building a team and having a cohesive unit. It's still the kind of mission where you have to bring your soldiers to operate as one."

In July 2001, shortly after being promoted to sergeant first class, McIntosh submitted an applica-

tion to become a warrant officer.

"I wanted to be part of the best," he said. "I wanted more responsibility and more control of my lane. I wanted to be more marketable when I retire."

McIntosh's application was accepted, and in October he attended the Warrant Officer Candidate School in Fort Rucker, Ala., followed by the Warrant Officer Basic Course in Charlottesville, Va. He then returned to his unit in Germany.

"Becoming a warrant officer is a hard transition, especially going back to the same unit," said McIntosh. "Officers and NCOs have different rules, and it's hard to push away the trades and attributes that made me a good NCO. I had to reshape and remold and even now, I'm still working on it."

On Dec. 18, 2002, McIntosh and his wife, Claudia, welcomed daughter Mirijana to the world. Less than five months later, McIntosh deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Of receiving the Bronze Star with "V" Device, McIntosh said, "I was humbled to receive an award so prestigious, but what we did just makes me feel like a soldier. That's part of our duty."



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general, awards Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

TF 1-36 honors Spartan soldiers during Veterans Day service

Story and photos by Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers from 1st Armored Division's 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, remembered four soldiers killed in action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during an early morning Veterans Day ceremony at Fire Base Melody, located in northern Baghdad.

As Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Graham, 1-36 Infantry CSM, unveiled both the battalion and the American colors, the battalion formation quietly remembered their soldiers and friends.

The Spartan soldiers honored were: Pfc. Robert L. Frantz, Co. B, 1-36 Infantry, killed June 18; Sgt. Juan M. Serrano, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, killed July 24; Spc. Edward Herrgott, Co. B, 1-36 Infantry, killed July 3; Spc. William J. Maher, III, HHC, 1-36 Infantry, killed July 28.

Lt. Col. Charles Sexton, 1-36 Infantry battalion commander, told his soldiers that Frantz, Serrano, Herrgott and Maher

died for something they believed in: bringing freedom to the Iraqi people.

Each soldier will be remembered with a large gold and black plaque placed on separate buildings throughout the battalion's compound.

"Their lives are not lost in vain," Sexton said, looking at the four plaques behind him. "We are going to honor their memory by commissioning plaques for each one of the buildings you soldiers live in. I can think of no greater way to honor the memories of Frantz, Herrgott, Maher and Serrano than by naming a building, in which their brothers live, after them."

Sexton said during his speech he knows the four Spartan soldiers killed are appreciative of what the battalion is doing during its mission in central Iraq.

"They are looking down upon us from heaven. It's not easy to say goodbye to a friend, but when you say goodbye that friend is still within our hearts. They are still with us in our minds, and they are still with the United States Army."

Sexton reminded his soldiers to look at the colors Graham uncovered earlier in the ceremony and remember that each represents those soldiers who have been killed in battles of the past, present and future.

"Soon we'll be adding a streamer to those battalion colors," he said. "We'll often look at those streamers as cloth with a couple words on it, but what I want you to do from now on as veterans is look at those streamers and



The 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, salutes during the Veterans Day memorial service where the battalion dedicated four buildings to the four Spartan soldiers killed during operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

think of those names you see today."

Whether it was at the turn of the century, yesterday or tomorrow, Graham said remembering and honoring fallen comrades is important part of our history Americans must not forget.

"They have sacrificed their lives to ensure the sons and daughters of future generations can live a free and fulfilling life," he said. "As we remember these four soldiers during Veterans Day, let us not forget the past soldiers who have also fallen. They too have sacrificed their lives for myself and my children."

Nov. 11 is a day of heroes, and this day belongs to soldiers, said Sexton

"Those soldiers did not die in vain," he said. "They died for a dream; that dream is freedom. They were your brothers in arms, and they gave their lives to the flag you see in front of you. They gave their lives for you and for your families."



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Graham, 1-36 Infantry CSM, unveils the Spartan colors during the Veterans Day memorial service.



Lt. Col. Charles Sexton, 1-36 Infantry battalion commander, and Capt. Chris Ayers, Company B, 1-36 Infantry commander, prepare to place a plaque on the Company B living quarters during the battalion's Veterans Day memorial service.

Range named for fallen soldier

◆ *Butler was the first 1st Armored Division soldier to die in Iraq*

By Spc. John Wollaston

3rd Brigade Combat Team PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers from 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team gathered Nov. 1 for a ceremony dedicating the Butler Range Complex to their friend and fellow soldier, Sgt. Jacob L. Butler.

Butler, a scout for 3rd BCT's 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, died April 1 during one of the first heavy engagements of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His battalion was supporting elements of the 82nd Airborne Division in and around the southern Iraqi town of As-Samwah when they ran into heavy opposition near a bridge as they were crossing the Euphrates River.

The battalion's scouts were sent forward to assess the enemy strength on the far side of the bridge. When a fellow scout was wounded after a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) struck his vehicle, Butler went forward to continue the reconnaissance mission and rescue his fellow soldier. He was killed when small-arms fire and an RPG struck his vehicle.

Butler was the first soldier from the 1st Armored Division to die in Iraq during OIF. His death stunned the battalion.

"Sgt. Butler took the fight to the enemy so the enemy couldn't bring the fight to us," said 3rd BCT commander Col. Russ Gold during the dedication ceremony. "His actions that day saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and countless others that followed."

Gold drew a comparison between Butler and the biblical character Jacob. He pointed out how they were both "scouting the way for those who followed behind."



Photo by Spc. John Wollaston

Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for maneuver, and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins, 3rd Brigade Combat Team CSM, unveil the sign marking the opening of the Butler Range Complex. The range is named in honor of Sgt. Jacob L. Butler, the first 1AD soldier killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The first range of its type in Iraq, Butler Range Complex is capable of supporting various types of tank, artillery and infantry gunnery training, which is critical to maintaining a soldier's war-fighting skills. The maneuver battalions in 3rd BCT have already begun blasting away at targets on the range, honing their skills.

Gold closed the ceremony by reading the words at the bottom of the sign dedicating the range in Butler's memory.

"May all soldiers who use this range complex to better their war-fighting skills always remember Sgt. Butler, his courage and his sacrifice."

1457th and 203rd Engineer soldiers build new firing range in Baghdad

Story by Cpl. Todd Pruden
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Butler Range Complex, built by 1st Armored Division's 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion, a Utah Army National Guard unit and the 203rd Engineer Battalion, a Missouri Army National Guard unit, has all the amenities of existing Army compounds in Iraq, and maybe even more than most.

"The intent is having a permanent range for as long as the U.S. is here," said Capt. Lance Pearce, A Company commander, 203rd Engineer.

The range has 46 16 feet by 32 feet barracks, each large enough to hold 10 soldiers comfortably and up to 18 at maximum capacity. Nine structures will

be home for the permanent party range controllers. All will be equipped with air conditioning and electricity. Restrooms are equipped with showers and sinks. The complex will also include a dining facility and a laundry facility. According to Pearce, up to 500



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, test fire their weapons at 1AD's Butler Range Complex.

soldiers can live in the area at one time.

Building the complex was very rewarding work for the engineer soldiers.

"Many of the soldiers do this in the civilian world," said Pearce. "This is exactly the type of job we are trained to do. You don't usually get this type of construction job on a typical drill weekend."

Encompassing 56 square kilometers, Butler Range Complex includes eight different types of ranges including small arms, squad live fire, aviation, paladins and artillery position, convoy live fire and machineguns transition, according to Sgt. 1st Class Bill Courchen, 1AD's Bradley Fighting Vehicle master gunner.

"All weapons systems organic to the division will be able to shoot here," Courchen said.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR?



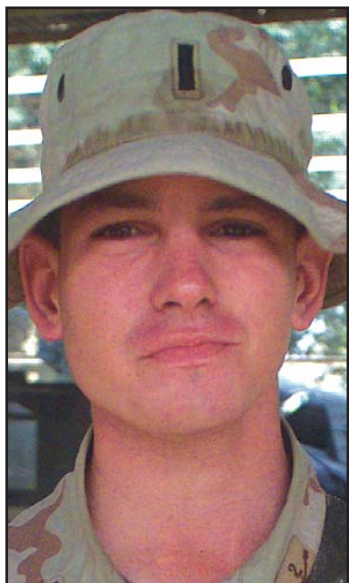
PFC. JAMELA BROWNE
Chemical specialist
87th CHEM Co., 2nd ACR

"I am thankful for my life. There are a lot of parents back home who are receiving bad news from here."



SPC. CHRIS WESBROOK
Truck operator
SEE Co., 40th ENG

"I am most thankful that my wife and kids are safe and happy."



1ST LT. RYAN O'REILLY
Platoon leader
M Troop, 3-2 ACR

"I am thankful that my unit still has everyone we came over here with. We have not sent anyone home injured."



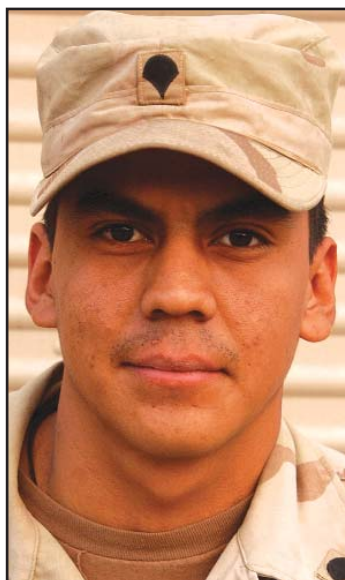
SGT. CHESTER GREATHOUSE
Radar section chief
D Battery, 1-94 FA

"I am thankful that I'm still here and able to call my house and say 'Happy Thanksgiving.'"



MASTER SGT. ANTHONY WILCOXSON
Intelligence NCO
HHD, 123rd MSB

"I'm thankful that we haven't lost more soldiers."



SPC. MARLON CARBAJAL
Supply clerk
HHT, 1-1 CAV

"I am thankful for my living conditions. I have hot water, air conditioning, a television and Internet access."

SOLDIERS IN ACTION



Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell

Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Douglas, 1st Armored Division's Support Command CSM, plays the bagpipes at a memorial service for 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Colgan, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment. Colgan was killed Nov. 2 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.



Photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner

Pfc. Trenton Chatman, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD, takes the time necessary to diagnose and fix a humvee at the HHC, 1AD motorpool.



Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson

Staff Sgt. Christopher Shriver, a scout with L Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, keeps a lookout near the Darweesh school in western Abu Ghuraib.



Photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner

Sgt. Rogelio Torres (driver) and Spc. Dominic Collis, both tankers with Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, maintain security at 1AD's Freedom Rest facility in Baghdad.

1st Armored Division Thanksgiving: An American Army Tradition

By Lt. Col. Colonel Mark A. Olinger
and Capt. David Gercken

Task Force 1st Armored Division

The occasion is traditionally thought of as the first Thanksgiving was a 1621 feast between the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony (now Massachusetts) and the Wampanoag Indian Tribe. The annual celebration of Thanksgiving came two years later.

These days, Thanksgiving Day is a time to offer thanks, a time of family gatherings and holiday meals. It is a time of turkeys, stuffing, pumpkin pie, holiday parades, and football.

America's Tank Division also has its own rich history of Thanksgiving.

World War II

The United States entered the Second World War on Dec. 8, 1941. The scope of the war, the number and diversity of overseas operations presented an enormous challenge for food supply, transport and distribution, but at home and overseas, the military attempted not only to feed the troops, but also feed them well. Though overseas units still depended largely on canned food, dehydrated fruits, and powdered eggs, extraordinary efforts were made to get holiday food to

combat areas.

U.S. and British forces invaded French North Africa Nov. 8, 1942. Old Ironsides was the first U.S. Armored Division to see combat. Harsh conditions combined with primitive roads spoiled an early opportunity to capture Tunisia and cut off German supply lines. Thanksgiving was spent in contact with the enemy.

In November 1943, 1AD attacked the infamous Winter Line on the Italian mainland. Thanksgiving Day was spent breaching the line.

Three consecutive Thanksgivings were spent with the division in contact with the enemy. It was not uncommon in the days preceding Thanksgiving to see crates of turkeys and sweet potatoes arriving at the mess tents and the cooks busy preparing vats of pie and bread dough. Thanksgiving Day 1945 would be the first celebrated at peace for the Nation and its soldiers.

Cold War, Vietnam and the Balkans

Following World War II, the Thanksgiving Day celebration began to change. Although 1AD did not participate as a division in the Vietnam War, two units, Company A, 501st Aviation Regiment, and 1st Squadron, 1st Calvary Regiment, served with distinction.

Throughout the war Thanksgiving Day dinner was the result of tight coordination and a year of planning. A typical Thanksgiving dinner in Vietnam included bread dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, buttered greens, assorted pies, and roast turkey with giblet dressing. Special printed souvenir menus were given to each soldier.

On Dec. 14, 1995, 1AD was ordered to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. On Nov. 10, 1996, 1AD transferred authority for command and control of Task Force Eagle to the 1st Infantry Division, allowing a safe return of the 1AD soldiers to Germany. Iron Soldiers were able to spend a Thanksgiving with family members and loved ones, enjoying a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing, assorted vegetables, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

In April 1999, 1AD was alerted to send soldiers to Albania as part of Operation Allied Force. Thanksgiving 2000 was spent enforcing the peace in Kosovo with Iron Soldiers enjoying a meal of turkey, beef, ham, Cornish hens, sweet potatoes, assorted vegetables, cranberry sauce, pies, fruitcake, nuts, and candy.



Korea



Favorite Time of the Day



Korea



WW II

Iraq

For roughly 29,000 1AD soldiers it will be another Thanksgiving away from home.

Today's dining facilities are decorated with holiday trimmings with the cooks and their staffs taking pride in the meal's preparation and presentation.

It took an estimated six months of planning and coordination to bring

Thanksgiving dinner to troops fighting overseas in the War on Terrorism. Most of the food was shipped by sea and is waiting in freezers for Thanksgiving Day. For the soldiers of Old Ironsides, division ships moved 13,500 pounds of turkey, 14,000 pounds of prime rib, 7,000 pounds of Cornish game hens, 4,000 pounds each of ham and shrimp, 4,200 pounds of vegetables, 17,500 pies

and all the trimmings such as cranberry sauce and candy.

"We want to bring a taste of the traditional meal to them," said Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Marquardt, 1AD food service advisor. "When you are living over here, a little taste of home means a lot. It's important for the troops to have a little bit of Americana for this uniquely American holiday."



Let's Have Chow with "Able" Co

Korea



Thanksgiving with the troops.
November 22, 1990

Iraq

U.S. Army veterinarians "bear" surgery to train Iraqis

◆ *Baghdad Zoo's Sadir receives veterinary treatment for tumor in abdomen.*

By Spc. Chad Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A tranquilizer gun is a pretty rare type of weapon to see in central Baghdad. Most U.S. Army servicemembers in Iraq carry assault rifles or fully automatic machineguns, but veterinarians' weapon of choice at Baghdad Zoo is a syringe dart filled with anesthetic.

This tranquilizer is not meant to cause damage, however, but rather as an aid in repairing damage caused by various medical problems.

Soldiers from the Task Force 1st Armored Division's 352nd Civil Affairs Command, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., alongside soldiers from Combined Joint Task Force - 7's 72nd Medical Detachment, have taken steps to bring about major overhauls at the Baghdad Zoo and have begun to bring the zoo up to a functional, modern standard.

Sadir, a 32-year-old female brown bear at the zoo, has already benefited greatly from the presence of U.S. Army veterinarians when she was anesthetized to surgically remove a cancerous tumor on her abdomen.

"The tumor was becoming infected and abscessed, so we anesthetized her with a dart gun, made some incisions and removed it," said Col. Mark Gants, CJTF - 7 veterinarian. "There were a few blood vessels in there that we had to tie off to get the bleeding stopped, then we closed it all up."

Gants was the head surgeon on the project, and was assisted by Spc. Erin McLoughlin, a

veterinary technician with the 72nd Med., and Lt. Col. Jose Lozada, a veterinarian with the 352nd Civil Affairs Command.

"Obviously, when you have a malignant tumor, it is not good," McLoughlin said. "You need to get it out of there. A cancerous tumor is dangerous, and you want to prevent it from spreading."

As the procedure took place, McLoughlin acted as Gant's "second set of eyes and hands," she said. She was able to help him finish the surgical procedure more quickly and efficiently.

With limited lighting, operating on sight in Sadir's enclosure, the team prepared the bear for surgery.

After anesthesia was administered, McLoughlin and a number of the zoo's Iraqi staff members shaved the fur from the area surrounding the tumor.

Gants made incisions around the tumor, and began removing it as a whole, but the challenge came after the mass was removed.

The blood vessels that were cut when the tumor was extracted were filling the wound with blood and took time to be stopped. On top of



Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson

Col. Mark Gants (left), Combined Joint Task Force - 7 veterinarian and Spc. Erin McLoughlin, veterinary technician from the 72nd Medical Detachment, operate on Sadir, a 32-year-old brown bear, at Baghdad Zoo. The surgery successfully removed a cancerous tumor from Sadir's abdomen.

that, Lozada said, the tranquilizer began wearing off.

The team had to move quickly to suture the incision, clean up and get out of the cage. With Gants sewing from one end, and McLoughlin from the other, the team safely accomplished their mission and was out of the enclosure before the bear was

fully conscious.

The zoo, Gants said, had limited equipment, so scalpels, clamps and other supplies required for surgery had to be borrowed from the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

The surgery was deemed a success by the team and Sadir will be closely monitored during her recovery, Lozada said.

A main motivation for U.S. Army involvement at the zoo, said Lozada, was the training of the staff and veterinarians who will be responsible for the animals and facilities there after the soldiers are gone.

Veterinary books, journals and magazines, essential to the continuing practice of zoo staff, have been unavailable in the past, said Lozada. Allowing zoo staff to be involved in surgical procedures and see vaccination processes will help bring them up to speed.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Sadir, in her cage, is one of the many animals at the Baghdad Zoo.

1st Armored Division soldier observes Ramadan

Story and photos by
Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Muhammad Sukarno wakes before sunrise and prepares. He spreads his mat on the floor of his sleeping quarters. He cleanses his hands, face and body. He removes his shoes. At sunrise, Sukarno starts. He crosses his arms, closes his eyes and begins to recite a prayer to himself. He bows, kneels, puts his face down.

Sukarno will do this four more times throughout the day: late afternoon, early evening, sundown and an hour after sundown. He might have to conduct prayer on a break from guard duty or during morning physical training. If he is out on a convoy or in a non-secure area, he might have to wait and combine prayers later in the evening. Sukarno is a devout Muslim. He is also a U.S. soldier.

Sgt. Muhammad Sukarno, a native of Medan, Indonesia, serves as a team leader with 1st Armored Division's

315th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Company.

Despite his strenuous schedule and demanding days, which include broadcasting command information and disseminating PSYOP paper products, the deployment has not deterred Sukarno's faith. He conducts prayer five times a day and reads at least 10 pages of the Qu'ran every night.

"Even when I am out on the road, I will try to find a safe place to pray," said Sukarno.

Sukarno is also observing Ramadan, Islam's holiest holiday, though he can't attend Muslim services in a mosque or partake in evening Ramadan celebrations because of safety issues.

"Ramadan is different here because I can't celebrate with other

Muslims and I am not with my family," said Sukarno. "But it still has the same meaning for me. Ramadan teaches me a lot. I push myself to be a better person."

Sukarno says that being a Muslim and being a soldier rarely conflicts.

"Everyone has been really supportive and helpful," he said. "If I need a day off because of a religious holiday or I need some time to conduct prayer, my command and other soldiers are always really understanding."

Sukarno said he is proud that different people from different cultures can live and work together side by side in the military.

"I like to see everyone getting along," he said. "Everyone follows their own teachings, but can still live peacefully."



Sgt. Muhammad Sukarno, a team leader with 1st Armored Division's 315th Psychological Operations Company conducts prayer.

SNIPERS BRING SCHOOL

Story & photos by Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - For most people, the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., conjures up images of soldiers in camouflage sneaking around the densely wooded training grounds of western Georgia, learning to kill the enemy stealthily with high-powered rifles.

However, the rural woodlands of the southeastern United States have little in common with the sun-scorched desert of Iraq, and cannot compare to the bustling urban setting of cities such as Baghdad.

So, rather than send troops to Fort Benning for sniper training, the 1st Armored Division has requested the school to come to Iraq.

Three sniper instructors from the school, a mobile training team (MTT), have brought their weapons, equipment and other teaching materials to Baghdad, where they are training a group of 20 1AD sniper candidates throughout October and November.

Though MTTs are designed to travel to teach sniper students at locations away from Fort Benning, this is the first time an MTT has trained soldiers in a combat zone since the

Vietnam War, according to Sgt. 1st Class Clark Swedberg, senior instructor for special projects, U.S. Army Sniper School.

The advantages of bringing the school into the environment where units are conducting combat operations are clear. Soldiers have experienced

the conditions of the environment and can use the sniper training to better react to situations they may encounter.

"The wind is a lot different here than at Fort Benning," Swedberg said. "It makes a big difference for soldiers to learn to deal with it



Pfc. George Lopez, an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, looks through a spotting scope during 1AD sniper training.



Sniper trainees Spc. Frank Wilkins (foreground), Company B, 1-6 Infantry, and Pfc. Joshua Bergen, Company A, 1-6 Infantry, both infantrymen test fire weapons.

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here where they will experience it later. We can identify any other problems and fix them now.”

Swedberg said he’s noticed another advantage to training snipers in this environment: “They’re already in a combat frame of mind.”

Though the sniper school is a five-week course at Fort Benning, the mobile course is about a week shorter, Swedberg said. However, the students will be taught everything they would if they were taking the course stateside.

The sniper school is not just about shooting, either. The sniper candidates spend time in the classroom and in the field learning about reporting intelligence information, calling in close air support, mortars and artillery, and being an over-watch for whatever element they are assigned to, Swedberg said.

“One of their biggest assets is in their ability to provide information from reconnaissance and observation,” said Master Sgt. Alec Lazore, master gunner, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Bringing the sniper school to Baghdad also serves to replenish critical war-fighting skills, Lazore said. “We’ve been here six months, and 1st Armored Division requested the school because we’ve lost trained soldiers due to natural attrition like PCS and ETS (permanent change of station and expiration of time in

service).”

By replenishing snipers who are trained to operate in this environment, 1st Armored Division will be able to support its forces for the remainder of their deployment here.

Furthermore, the sniper candidates’ training has gone beyond simply learning to handle environmental conditions in Iraq. As they went into a range in the desert outside Baghdad to zero their weapons, the snipers found themselves looking through their scopes at the remaining most wanted members of Saddam Hussein’s regime, including Saddam himself.

The sniper instructors placed posters of the 55 most wanted on the targets the sniper students used to zero their weapons.



1AD sniper trainees receive a briefing on range policies and procedures before firing.

“It’s a good thing,” Lazore said. “It serves two purposes. The picture squares are perfect for the trainees to use to get a tight shot group. And it gives the soldiers a chance to see the most wanted through a scope.”

Lazore added, “Maybe one day these guys will get out there in the real world and see someone from that list through their scope.”



Two sniper trainees take aim at targets downrange to zero their rifles. Twenty soldiers from 1AD had the opportunity to go through sniper training throughout October and November.

Chaplains forging alliance with local religious leaders in Baghdad

By Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura

1st Brigade Combat Team

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Since June, chaplains of 1st Armored Division's Ready First Combat Team and attached elements, located in eastern Baghdad, have been forging alliances with local religious leaders.

Unit Ministry Teams (UMTs) have made at least 29 contacts with an assortment of religious leaders - from Shi'a and Sunni Muslims to Armenian and Roman Catholic bishops and priests.

Constructive engagement with religious leaders in Baghdad has become increasingly important to the overall success of the coalition mission. Early on in its mission, 1AD committed itself to building a partnership with religious leaders in Baghdad to enhance the Coalition Provisional Authority's mission to stabilize Baghdad.

From the beginning, division leaders recognized the significant role religious leaders would play in a mission committed to stabilization and peace for the region. Enthusiastically, chaplains took on the task of contacting local religious leaders, supporting commanders in their contacts, and establishing rapport for further dialog.

So far, chaplains have contacted religious leaders through the neighborhood advisory councils and via networking from existing contacts. The message chaplains bring encourages support for Coalition forces, conveys the U.S. commitment to provide an acceptable quality of life for the Iraqi people, and strengthens the commitment to uphold the importance of religious rites and the sacred practices, regardless of religious affiliation.

Recently, chaplains from the Ready First Combat Team met for lunch with Imam Mohammed Adil at the Baghdad University Mosque. Their discussion with the Imam (the leader of a mosque) was typical of many conversations chaplains are having with religious leaders. Imams are concerned for the security of their neighborhoods, quality of life, and helping the needy.

During lunch, Imam Adil spoke about his desire to produce a newsletter for his congregation to address "the features of Islamic religion . . . and the nature of the student's life in the West," in order to create greater opportunities for further dia-

logue among Islamic students and coalition forces.

Not all contacts have gone so smoothly. Despite many efforts to improve the living conditions of the Iraqi people, particularly providing repairs for mosques and churches, there is a lingering sense that Coalition forces are doing too little. For example, Sheik Hayder

Kadhim of the Al Tamimi Mosque is concerned about the use of U.S. funds for repairs and revitalization in Baghdad.



"Contacts with Christian leaders have been friendly, and their concerns are similar to the Imams: the need for security and the availability of electricity."

- Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura



He contends repairing the bridge between Karbala and An Najaf, two sacred Shi'a cities south of Baghdad, would be a better use of U.S. money. He said, "The repairing of the bridge would be a great gesture, especially during Ramadan."

He also said the need for security assistance around his mosque is another common theme among Muslim leaders.

Contacts with Christian leaders have been friendly, and their concerns are similar to the Imams: the need for security and the availability of electricity. Not long ago, one of the chaplains in the brigade met with Archbishop Avak Asadourian and the Rev. Gabrillian Simon of the Armenian Orthodox Church. Both men expressed deep concerns over the security of their parishioners and the need for electricity at St. Mary's Church.

Fortunately, the unit commander was able to submit a proposal for the installation of a generator at St. Mary's Church. Similar projects have been started at several mosques in Baghdad. It is important that all faith groups are represented in U.S. efforts to assist religious leaders.



Photos provided

(From left) Chaplain (Capt.) Lewis Messinger, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division; Archbishop Asadourian, Baghdad Diocese; Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura, 1st Brigade Combat Team; The Rev. Simon, St. Mary's Orthodox Church.

Despite very positive engagements, there remains a lot to do. Chaplains, along with unit commanders, have many more religious leaders to meet.

Particularly challenging is the effort to win over neutral and non-supportive religious leaders. Those leaders must understand that their unsupportive remarks ultimately hurt the Iraqi people and could undermine the great progress that has already been made.

Unit chaplains believe the alliance will help in the long-term process of engendering hope and understanding among all religious leaders, as well as provide for a prosperous peace.



Capt. John Mostellar, commander of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment; Imam Sheik Hassan; Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura, 1st Brigade Combat Team.

Arch of Victory has symbolic meanings

By Ahmad Hammadi
Abdulameer
Baghdad Now

“The idea of the two crossed swords was first organized by Saddam when he assigned the late sculptor Khaled Al-Real to design the monument,” said Iraqi sculptor Mohammed Chain Hikmat. Hikmat took over when Al-Real died before executing the work.

The idea of the monument is based on two crossed swords held by two hands. Below these hands are many helmets. The helmets, taken from the battlefield, once belonged to Iranian soldiers that were killed in the Iraq-Iran war that lasted from 1980-1988.

The helmets are kept in a net, but some of have rolled on the ground in random ways. A scene of an explosion is the landscape below the net with hands as reference that they broke through the ground beneath them.

“This portrays the overwhelming power the Iraqi army had at that period,” said professor Mutadah, a sculpture instructor at the College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad.

Al-Real borrowed the idea of the net and helmets from the history of the ancient Iraq. A sculpture of the Sumerians, who ruled the region thousands years before Jesus Christ, shows that enemy soldiers were hunted in a big net, said Hikmat.

Al-Real’s original design – an Arabian sword and generic hands – is different than the current one.

“Saddam ordered me to change the Arabian sword to an Al-Qadissiya sword which he granted mostly for his military commanders and generals,” said Hikmat.

According to Hikmat, the Al-Qadissiya sword is different

from the Arabian sword in length and shape and its handle is thicker and ends with the two half domes of Martyr’s Monument. The Al-Qadissiya sword also required that the hands that held it must be formed to fit it.

“I overcame this problem by suggesting having a new cast for the hand that holds the sword. Saddam suggested that it should be his,” he said.

After the design was completed, arrangements were made for the different parts of the monuments to be created.

The two hands and swords – made of pure copper to ensure the sculpture would last – were created by a company in Britain.

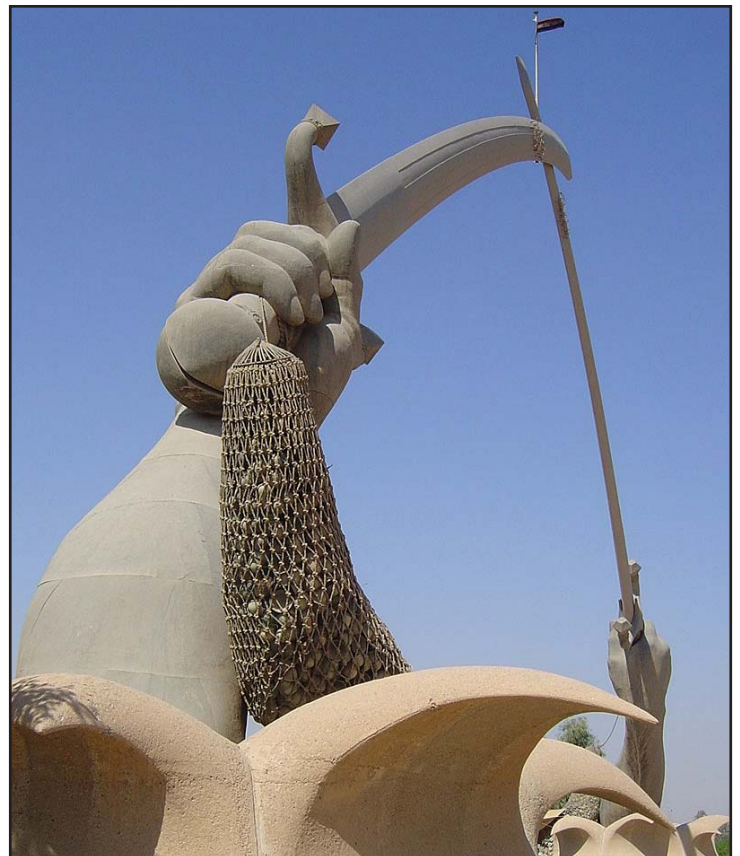
The net was created by another Iraqi sculptor, Miran Al-Saadi.

A special design change was made by Hikmat for the two straight swords to form the arch when they are crossed, and to reveal their aesthetic aspects.

“Indeed, the arch represents the Islamic architecture, so the whole idea of the design is a mixture between the Sumerian and Islamic legacy,” said professor Saad al Taei, the head of the plastic arts department, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad.

By changing the type of the sword from a bent one to straight one, a wider street was required.

“I got the consent to change the width of the street from 40



Photos by Sahir Al-Wadi

A close-up view of the netting attached to the Arch of Victory, which contains Iranian helmets taken during the Iran-Iraq War.

meters to more than 60 meters in order to avoid making a sharp angle to form the arch,” said Hikmat.

The original and newer design didn’t have the Iraqi flag at the top of the two swords.

“It was suggested by Saddam to have the flag there, and also to write the words ‘by the name of God’ on the swords,” said professor Mamun Salman, sculpture instructor, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad.

However, the idea of the two swords making the arch of victory is still controversial among sculptors and scholars.

Professor Maymon Al-Khaldi, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, believes that the arch “is a brutal way of portraying the victory. The view of the two swords that cut the heads of the enemy soldiers is not suitable to be revealed in the monument of the Arch of Victory.”

On the other hand, Shadad Abdulqahar, a plastic arts artist, said, “the sword is a symbol of power in our history, so I think it goes very much with the concept that the arch of victory holds.”

Thus, the people of Iraq, whose roots go to the Sumerians, Akadians, Asserians and the Baghdadis are proud of their culture and power. This is the message that the Arch of Victory tries to convey.



A view of the entire parade field, called the Arch of Victory. It symbolizes power in Iraqi history.

Around Baghdad

A glimpse of the faces and places in Iraq's capital city



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

People go about their daily routine in an alley in downtown Baghdad.



Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell

An old man crouches against a building to read a letter.



Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell

A boy balances a tray of loaves of bread he intends to sell.



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

A child sits with her mother in a merchant's stall in the crowded Abu Ghuraib marketplace.



Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson

A girl swings at the new playground in the Hayy Karkh neighborhood of central Baghdad.